

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4937

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1360

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AF ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (AHIDJO, AHMADOU), CM, US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE US VISIT OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO

REF: JUNIOR/MITHOEFER TELCON 2/28

1. AT MY REQUEST PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL SAMUEL EBOUA RECEIVED ME ON MARCH 16. DURING OUR CONVERSATION (REPORTED SEPTTEL) I RAISED THE QUESTION OF PRSIDENT AHIDJO'S TRAVEL PLANS. I SAID WE HAD HEARD FROM WASHINGTON THAT THERE WAS A RUMOR THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN INVITED TJ HOUSTON. EBOUA SAID THIS WAS NOT SO, BUT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD VISIT THE STATES IF INVITED.

2. I REALIZE THAT THERE IS NO CARRYOVER FROM YEAR TO YEAR ON WHO IS INVITED ON OFFICIAL OR STATE VISITS, BUT I WOULD NOTE THAT PRESIDENT AHIDJO IS THE ONLY ONE REMAINING FROM LAST YEAR'S LIST WHO WAS NOT ISSUED AN INVITATION. I WOULD ALSO ADD THAT WE DID MAKE INQUIRIES AT TIME OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO UNGA LAST YEAR. THEREFORE I WOULD HOPE THAT EARLY FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO INVITING PRESIDENT AHIDJO AT TIME OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING THIS YEAR. I WOULD ADD THAT INVITATION FOR VISIT BEFORE END OF SEPTEMBER WOULD PROBABLY COINCIDE WITH PREPARATION FOR SIGNATURE OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT
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3. INVITATION WOULD ALSO BE IN KEEPING WITH PROPOSED STRATEGY TO SHOW MORE INTEREST IN MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS. I BELIEVE RECENT VISIT OF HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY INDICATION THAT AFRICAN MODERATES THEMSELVES ARE SHOWING INCREASING SIGNS OF SOLIDARITY WHICH, IF PROPERLY ENCOURAGED, COULD BE USED TO OUR BENEFIT IN

INTERNATIONAL FORA.
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